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Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 10 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/90) and the letter dated 10 September 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2013/538), I have the honour to state the following:

The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the unfounded and unacceptable claims regarding the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf, and reiterates its consistent and principled position that it does not recognize the existence of any dispute between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates, the three islands having been an inseparable part of Iranian territory. Thus, and as has been regularly reiterated, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the said islands are not negotiable. Nonetheless, and to show its utmost respect for the principle of good neighbourliness, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always expressed its readiness to talk with the United Arab Emirates with a view to continuing to strengthen bilateral relations and removing any misunderstanding that may exist between the two countries.

I would also like to stress that "Persian Gulf" is the only true geographical designation for the body of water lying between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, and has been used from the dawn of history. As the institutional memory of all renowned cartographic agencies testifies, this sea area has always been identified as the Persian Gulf. In this context, the policy of the United Nations and its practice of emphasizing the use of the correct name, "Persian Gulf", as the only geographical designation applicable to this body of water are noteworthy and should therefore be respected by all. Accordingly, any use of fabricated names for this body of water, including the fabricated name used in both of the above-mentioned letters, is not acceptable and must be stopped.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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